

Flowers Seeking Pollinators



PLANTS

Flowers have evolved over time to attract different **pollinators**. This is why flowers have different smells, shapes, and coloration.



Bees don't see red, but do see yellow and blue. Bee-pollinated flowers usually have a sweet and spicy scent. The flowers are often sturdy with a shape that is designed to be a bee landing platform.

Butterflies have good vision but a weak sense of smell. Butterfly-pollinated flowers are often bright and odorless. They often grow in groups so that the butterflies can perch and walk around on the flowers while drinking nectar with their tongues.



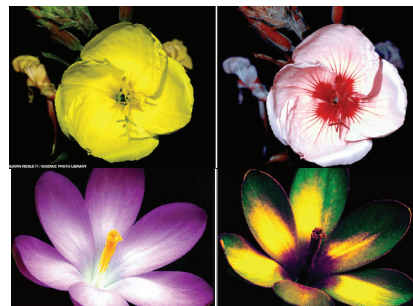
Birds have good vision but a poor sense of smell. Bird-pollinated flowers are brightly-colored, especially red, but have no smell. Can you see how this flower is designed for a hummingbird's beak? The flower points downward because hummingbirds hover in place while feeding, rather than perching like butterflies. Not all bird-pollinated flowers point downward.

Fly-pollinated flowers often do not produce nectar. Instead, they attract flies with the smell of rotting meat or dung! They often have red or meat-colored petals. Some also trap the fly! Flowers near the ground may be pollinated by **ants** or **beetles**



Bees and other insects can see ultraviolet light. Check out an insect's view of these flowers. Notice how the colors create a nectar **bull's-eye** for flying insects to notice.

Human view Insect view



Bats & Moths are nocturnal. These flowers are white or pale colors so they are visible at night. Some flowers only open at night! Flowers typically have a sweet smell to attract moths and a musky smell to attract bats. Moth-pollinated flowers have flat or curved back petals so that the moth can get in. Bat-pollinated flowers should be large and sturdy enough to withstand these larger animals.



Some plants have not evolved to attract a certain pollinator. Flowers like this one are visited by a wide variety of pollinators.



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Name _____ Date _____

Which is adapted to which? Which pollinator is each tropical flower adapted to attract? Draw a line matching the tropical flower to its pollinator.



Hint: musky odor;
opens at night



Hint: unpleasant
odor; bristly hairs
create a trap



Hint: odor most
strong at night



Moth



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